

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

- 1           1. (Currently amended) A method for using faceted metadata to facilitate  
2 navigation through information resources, comprising:  
3           receiving a query from a client at a server;  
4           performing the query on the faceted metadata, wherein the faceted  
5 metadata contains facets that describe characteristics of the information resources,  
6 and wherein performing the query generates results that identify information  
7 resources that satisfy the query;  
8           navigating to an information resource;  
9           constructing a response containing the results from the information  
10 resource, the query, and suggestions on how to refine the query; and  
11           sending the response to the client, thereby allowing the client to refine the  
12 query;  
13           whereby the client and server can work together in a stateless manner to  
14 refine the query and navigate through information resources without having to  
15 maintain state information about the query on the server.
- 1           2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the suggestions on  
2 how to refine the query include suggested values for facets of the faceted  
3 metadata.

1           3. (Currently amended) The method for claim 2, wherein the suggested  
2 | values can include frequently occurring values for facets of the faceted metadata.

1           4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the suggestions can include  
2 instructions on how to display the suggestions to a user.

1           5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 receiving the response from the server at the client;  
3 displaying the results and the suggestions on how to refine the query to a  
4 user associated with the client;  
5 upon receiving a command from the user to modify the query,  
6 modifying the query in accordance with the command to  
7 generate a new query, and  
8 sending the new query from the client to the server.

1           6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein modifying the query in  
2 accordance with the command can involve:  
3 using one of the suggestions to define a new query term;  
4 defining a new query term that is not associated with one of the  
5 suggestions; and  
6 removing a query term from the query.

1           7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein defining a new query term  
2 that is not associated with one of the suggestions can involve defining a new text  
3 search query term.

1           8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein displaying the results and the  
2 suggestions further involves displaying a representation of the state of the query to  
3 the user.

1           9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the query can contain:  
2 a specification of facets to be used in organizing the results; and  
3 conditions that results must satisfy.

1           10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising  
2 automatically creating ~~the an initial~~ query by:  
3 scanning through facets of the faceted metadata;  
4 generating suggestions for facets that have commonly occurring values;  
5 and  
6 allowing a user to select one or more of the suggestions to create the ~~initial~~  
7 query.

1           11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the suggestions  
2 on how to refine the query can additionally specify frequencies for commonly  
3 occurring values of facets in the faceted metadata.

1           12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein prior to  
2 receiving the query, the method further comprises initializing a database  
3 containing the faceted metadata by:  
4 receiving the faceted metadata in Resource Description Framework (RDF)  
5 format; and  
6 storing the faceted metadata in the database.

1           13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the query and the response  
2 are encoded in eXtensible Markup Language (XML) documents that are  
3 transferred between the client and the server.

1           14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the format of the  
2 query and the response are specified by a query language that facilitates  
3 navigation using the faceted metadata.

1           15. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing  
2 instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a  
3 method for using faceted metadata to facilitate navigation through information  
4 resources, the method comprising:  
5           receiving a query from a client at a server;  
6           performing the query on the faceted metadata, wherein the faceted  
7 metadata contains facets that describe characteristics of the information resources,  
8 and wherein performing the query generates results that identify information  
9 resources that satisfy the query;  
10          navigating to an information resource;  
11          constructing a response containing the results from the information  
12 resource, the query, and suggestions on how to refine the query; and  
13          sending the response to the client, thereby allowing the client to refine the  
14 query;  
15          whereby the client and server can work together in a stateless manner to  
16 refine the query and navigate through information resources without having to  
17 maintain state information about the query on the server.

1           16. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim  
2   15, wherein the suggestions on how to refine the query include suggested values  
3 | for facets of the faceted metadata.

1           17. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium for claim  
2   16, wherein the suggested values can include frequently occurring values for  
3 | facets of the faceted metadata.

1           18. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15,  
2   wherein the suggestions can include instructions on how to display the  
3   suggestions to a user.

1           19. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15,  
2   wherein the method further comprises:  
3       receiving the response from the server at the client;  
4       displaying the results and the suggestions on how to refine the query to a  
5   user associated with the client;  
6       upon receiving a command from the user to modify the query,  
7                modifying the query in accordance with the command to  
8               generate a new query, and  
9               sending the new query from the client to the server.

1           20. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19,  
2   wherein modifying the query in accordance with the command can involve:  
3       using one of the suggestions to define a new query term;  
4       defining a new query term that is not associated with one of the  
5   suggestions; and  
6       removing a query term from the query.

1           21. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20,  
2 wherein defining a new query term that is not associated with one of the  
3 suggestions can involve defining a new text search query term.

1           22. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19,  
2 wherein displaying the results and the suggestions further involves displaying a  
3 representation of the state of the query to the user.

1           23. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15,  
2 wherein the query can contain:  
3           a specification of facets to be used in organizing the results; and  
4           conditions that results must satisfy.

1           24. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim  
2 | 15, wherein the method further comprises automatically creating ~~the an initial~~  
3 query by:  
4 |           scanning through facets of the faceted metadata;  
5           generating suggestions for facets that have commonly occurring values;  
6 and  
7 |           allowing a user to select one or more of the suggestions to create the ~~initial~~  
8 query.

1           25. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim  
2 15, wherein the suggestions on how to refine the query can additionally specify  
3 | frequencies for commonly occurring values of facets in the faceted metadata.

1           26. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim  
2   15, wherein prior to receiving the query, the method further comprises initializing  
3   a database containing the faceted metadata by:  
4       receiving the faceted metadata in Resource Description Framework (RDF)  
5   format; and  
6       storing the faceted metadata in the database.

1           27. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15,  
2   wherein the query and the response are encoded in eXtensible Markup Language  
3   (XML) documents that are transferred between the client and the server.

1           28. (Currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim  
2   15, wherein the format of the query and the response are specified by a query  
3   language that facilitates navigation using the faceted metadata.

1           29. (Currently amended) An apparatus for using faceted metadata to  
2   facilitate navigation through information resources, comprising:  
3       a receiving mechanism configured to receive a query from a client at a  
4   server;  
5       a database configured to perform the query on the faceted metadata,  
6   wherein the faceted metadata contains facets that describe characteristics of the  
7   information resources, and wherein performing the query generates results that  
8   identify information resources that satisfy the query;  
9       a navigation mechanism configured to navigate to an information resource;  
10   and  
11       a response generation mechanism configured to,

12 |                   construct a response containing the results from the  
13 |                   information resource, the query, and suggestions on how to refine  
14 |                   the query, and to  
15 |                   send the response to the client, thereby allowing the client  
16 |                   to refine the query;  
17 |                   whereby the client and server can work together in a stateless manner to  
18 |                   refine the query and navigate through information resources without having to  
19 |                   maintain state information about the query on the server.

1                   30. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the  
2 |                   suggestions on how to refine the query include suggested values for facets of the  
3 |                   faceted metadata.

1                   31. (Currently amended) The apparatus for claim 30, wherein the  
2 |                   suggested values can include frequently occurring values for facets of the faceted  
3 |                   metadata.

1                   32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the suggestions can  
2 |                   include instructions on how to display the suggestions to a user.

1                   33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising a query  
2 |                   generation mechanism on the client configured to:  
3 |                   receive the response from the server;  
4 |                   display the results and the suggestions on how to refine the query to a user;  
5 |                   and  
6 |                   upon receiving a command from the user to modify the query, to  
7 |                   modify the query in accordance with the command to  
8 |                   generate a new query, and to





1           39. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the  
2 suggestions on how to refine the query can additionally specify frequencies for  
3 | commonly occurring values of facets in the faceted metadata.

1           40. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising a  
2 database initialization mechanism that is configured to:  
3 |       receive the faceted metadata in Resource Description Framework (RDF)  
4 |       format; and to  
5 |       store the faceted metadata in a database.

1           41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the query and the  
2 response are encoded in eXtensible Markup Language (XML) documents that are  
3 transferred between the client and the server.

1           42. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the format of  
2 the query and the response are specified by a query language that facilitates  
3 | navigation using the faceted metadata.

1           43. (Currently amended) A means for using faceted metadata to facilitate  
2 navigation through information resources, comprising:  
3       a receiving means for receiving a query from a client at a server;  
4 |       a database means for performing the query on the faceted metadata,  
5 | wherein the faceted metadata contains facets that describe characteristics of the  
6 information resources, and wherein performing the query generates results that  
7 identify information resources that satisfy the query;  
8 |       a navigation means for navigating to an information resource;

9           a response generation means for generating a response containing the  
10 | results from the information resource, the query, and suggestions on how to refine  
11 | the query; and  
12           a sending means for sending the response to the client, thereby allowing  
13 | the client to refine the query;  
14           whereby the client and server can work together in a stateless manner to  
15 | refine the query and navigate through information resources without having to  
16 | maintain state information about the query on the server.